

STAR WARS®

HAN SOLO



LIU
BROOKS
OBACK

MARVEL

001

HAN SOLO

Part I

It is a period of unrest. In a galaxy oppressed by the Empire's unrelenting brutality, there is little hope for change. Nonetheless, rebels have banded together to fight back against such corruption.

While the Rebellion grows in power, Imperials fight to crush any hope for an overthrow. With the Empire's hands full, the opportunities for crime are endless.

HAN SOLO has taken a step back from the rebel cause, returning his focus to what he does best - smuggling. Untrusting by nature, he's skeptical of any who cross his path. Unfortunately for him, he cannot stay under the radar forever....

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IT STARTED WITH
A DELIVERY OF
HIGH ORE.

SOMETHING DIDN'T
FEEL RIGHT, SO I LEFT
IT AT THE DOCK. HAD
TO PAY A PENALTY ON
IT, BUT I DIDN'T CARE.
JUST WALKED AWAY.

AND THEN THERE WAS
THE ARMS SHIPMENT
TO KONOS THAT I
TURNED DOWN. BIG
PAYOUT.

AFTER THAT, ANOTHER
JOB THAT WOULD'VE
TAKEN A DAY AT MOST,
BUT THAT MADE ME
JITTERY.

CHEWIE SAYS
I'M SPOOKED.

I TELL HIM I'M
JUST BEING
CAREFUL.

TOO MUCH OF
THIS, AND WE'RE
LOW ON FUEL
AND CREDITS.

SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

BUT I DON'T FEEL
SCARED. THAT'S
WHAT'S CRAZY. I
JUST FEEL--

READY TO
GIVE ME YOUR
ANSWER, SOLO? IT'S
A GOOD RUN. SHORT
AND EASY, FOR A
SHIP LIKE
YOURS.





...IS RUN.



STOP.
RIGHT.
THERE.



YOU'RE
COMING WITH
US, SOLO.

WE HAVE
BUSINESS TO
DISCUSS.

THIS BETTER
BE GOOD. I DON'T
APPRECIATE HAVING
BLASTERS POINTED
AT ME.



YOU'RE
ALSO MAKING
ME LATE FOR
A JOB.



DON'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT IT.

EASY. WE
JUST NEED A
WORD WITH
YOU.

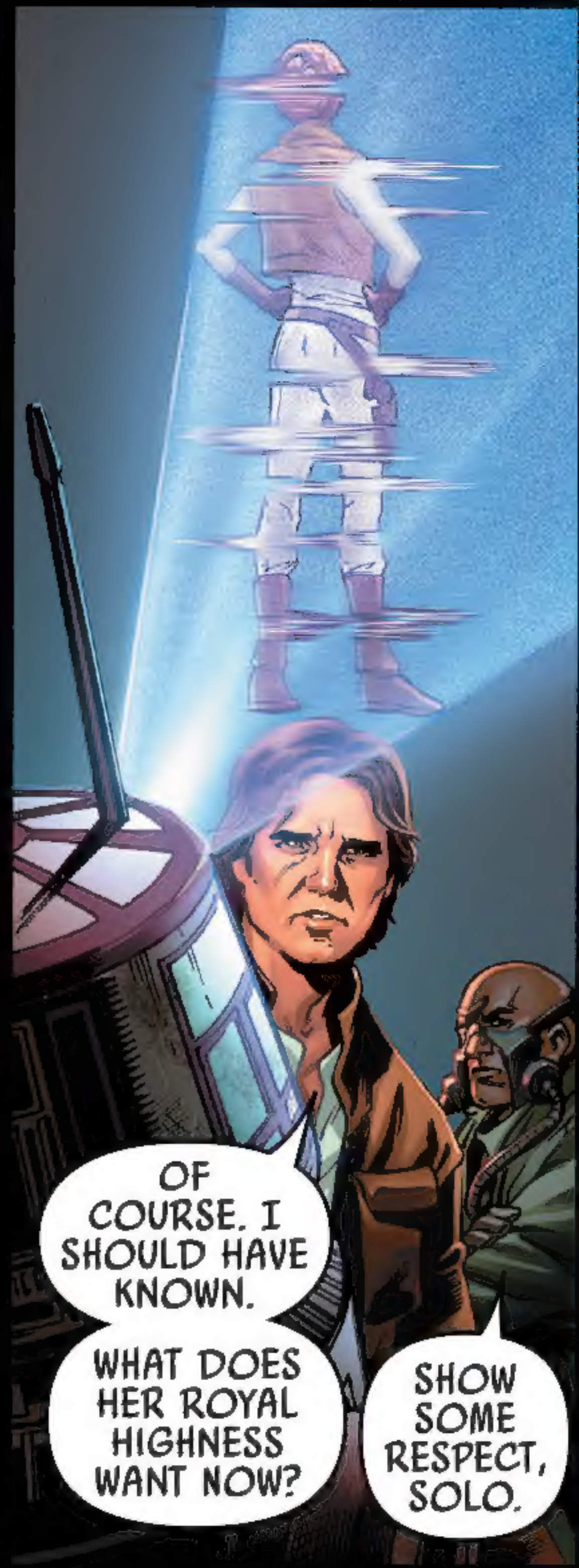


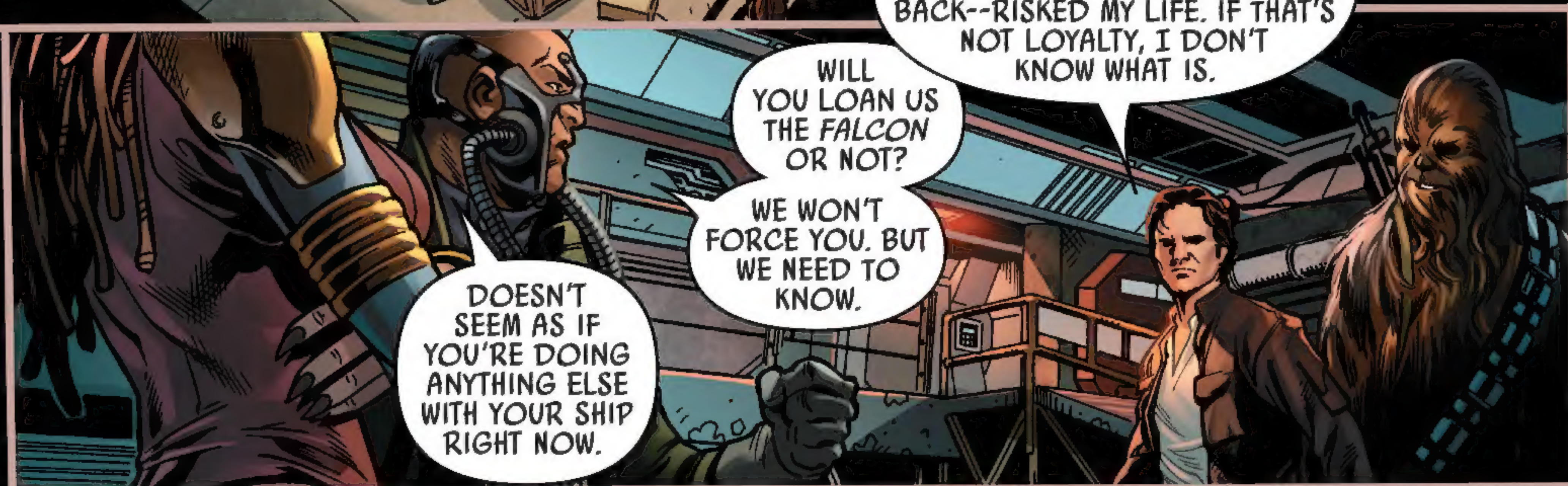
YOU'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING ME
FOR A WHILE, HAVEN'T
YOU? LAST WORLD,
THIS ONE. WHY?

WE WERE
LOOKING
FOR THE RIGHT
MOMENT.

WE FINALLY
REALIZED IT WASN'T
GOING TO HAPPEN,
SO WE TOOK
MEASURES.

ANYWAY,
HERE WE
ARE.







I ONLY JOINED THE REBELLION TO MAKE A QUICK BUCK.



AFTER I'D PAID OFF MY MARK I KEPT THINKING CHEWIE AND I WOULD GET IN THE FALCON AND KEEP GOING.



BUT I DIDN'T.



MAYBE I'M AS DUMB AS SHE SAYS I LOOK.

YOU HAVE SOME NERVE, SWEETHEART. MAKING PLANS FOR MY SHIP? MY SHIP, WITHOUT ME FLYING IT?

WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT THIS HERE.

OH, WE'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT THIS. RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW. I DIDN'T FLY ALL THE WAY BACK TO THIS STINKING SLAG JUST FOR YOU TO IGNORE ME AS USUAL.



OR MAYBE SOMETHING'S CHANGED.

ARE YOU DONE?



NO. I TOLD YOU I NEEDED TIME TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT I OWE JABBA.

WE'VE GIVEN YOU ENOUGH TIME. IF YOU COULDN'T EARN WHAT YOU NEEDED BY NOW, THEN YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD A SMUGGLER AS YOU SAY YOU ARE.

NOW, YOU HOLD ON--



THERE'S MORE AT STAKE THAN YOUR HURT FEELINGS.



THIS IS THE PILOT CAUSING US SO MUCH DISTRESS?

I'M UNDERWHELMED, TO SAY THE LEAST. NO OFFENSE, YOUNG MAN.



IF I COULD JUST--
IN ANOTHER TIME AND ANOTHER PLACE I'M SURE I COULD BE CONVINCED. BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME.

THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE, A MILLION WAYS THIS CAN GO WRONG, AND THEY ALL START WITH HIM.

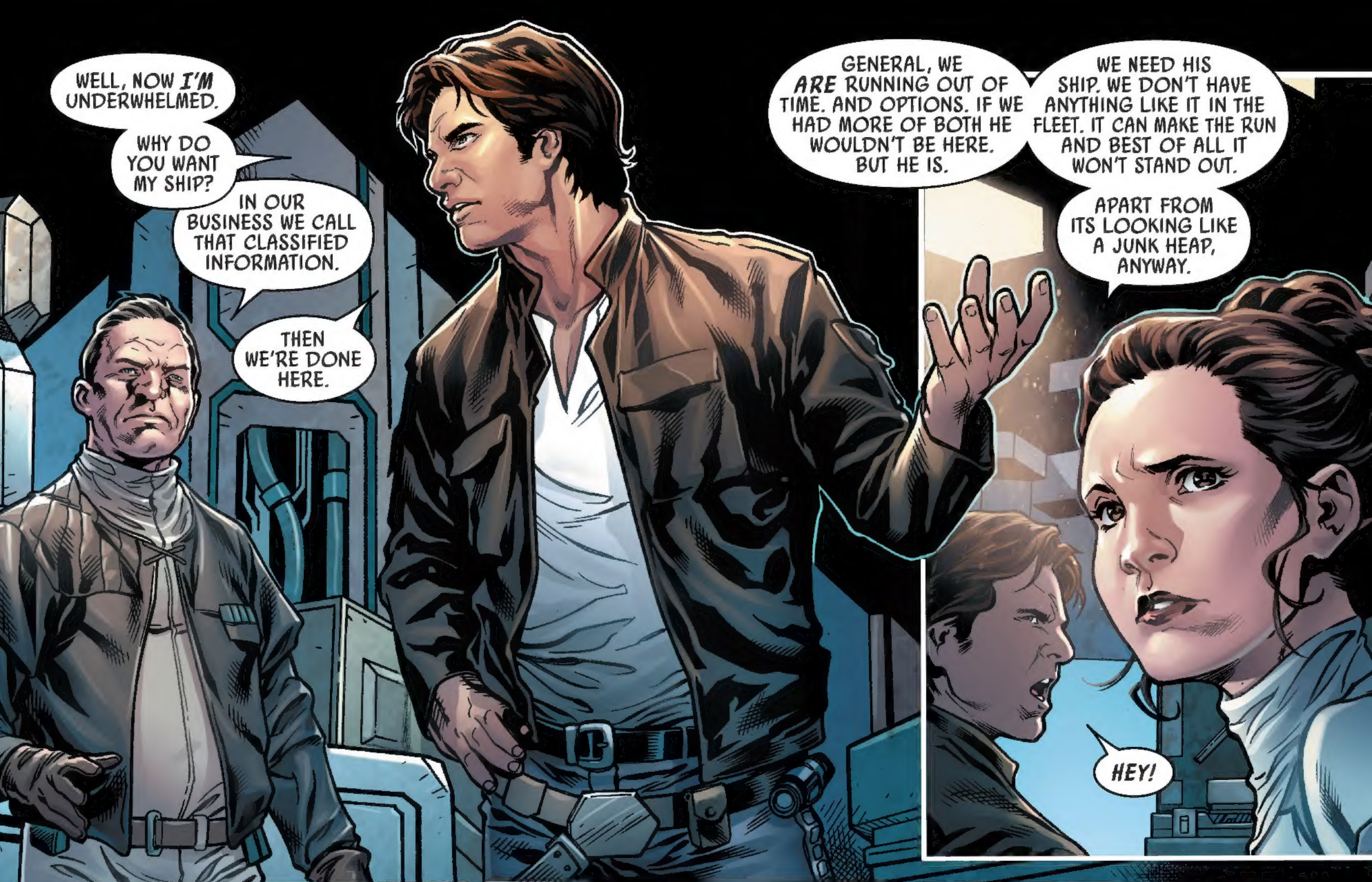
HEY--



FROM EVERYTHING THE PRINCESS HAS TOLD ME YOU'RE SLOPPY. DISHONEST. AND I'M NOT ENTIRELY CONVINCED OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE.

NICE. WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

GENERAL AIREN CRACKEN, HEAD OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE FOR THE REBELLION.



WELL, NOW I'M UNDERWHELMED.

WHY DO YOU WANT MY SHIP?

IN OUR BUSINESS WE CALL THAT CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

THEN WE'RE DONE HERE.

GENERAL, WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. AND OPTIONS. IF WE HAD MORE OF BOTH HE WOULDN'T BE HERE. BUT HE IS.

WE NEED HIS SHIP. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE IT IN THE FLEET. IT CAN MAKE THE RUN AND BEST OF ALL IT WON'T STAND OUT.

APART FROM ITS LOOKING LIKE A JUNK HEAP, ANYWAY.

HEY!



HE CAN DO IT. I KNOW IT SEEMS...UNLIKELY, BUT IT'S TRUE.

I DIDN'T LIKE IT BEFORE WHEN YOU SUGGESTED SOLO FOR THIS MISSION, AND I LIKE IT EVEN LESS NOW THAT I'VE MET HIM. YOU KNOW WHAT'S AT STAKE, BETTER THAN ANYONE.

SOLO MIGHT BE YOUR FIRST CHOICE, BUT HE'S FAR FROM MINE.

NO. BUT HE IS WHAT WE'VE GOT. AND WE'RE OUT OF TIME.



I'M STANDING RIGHT HERE.

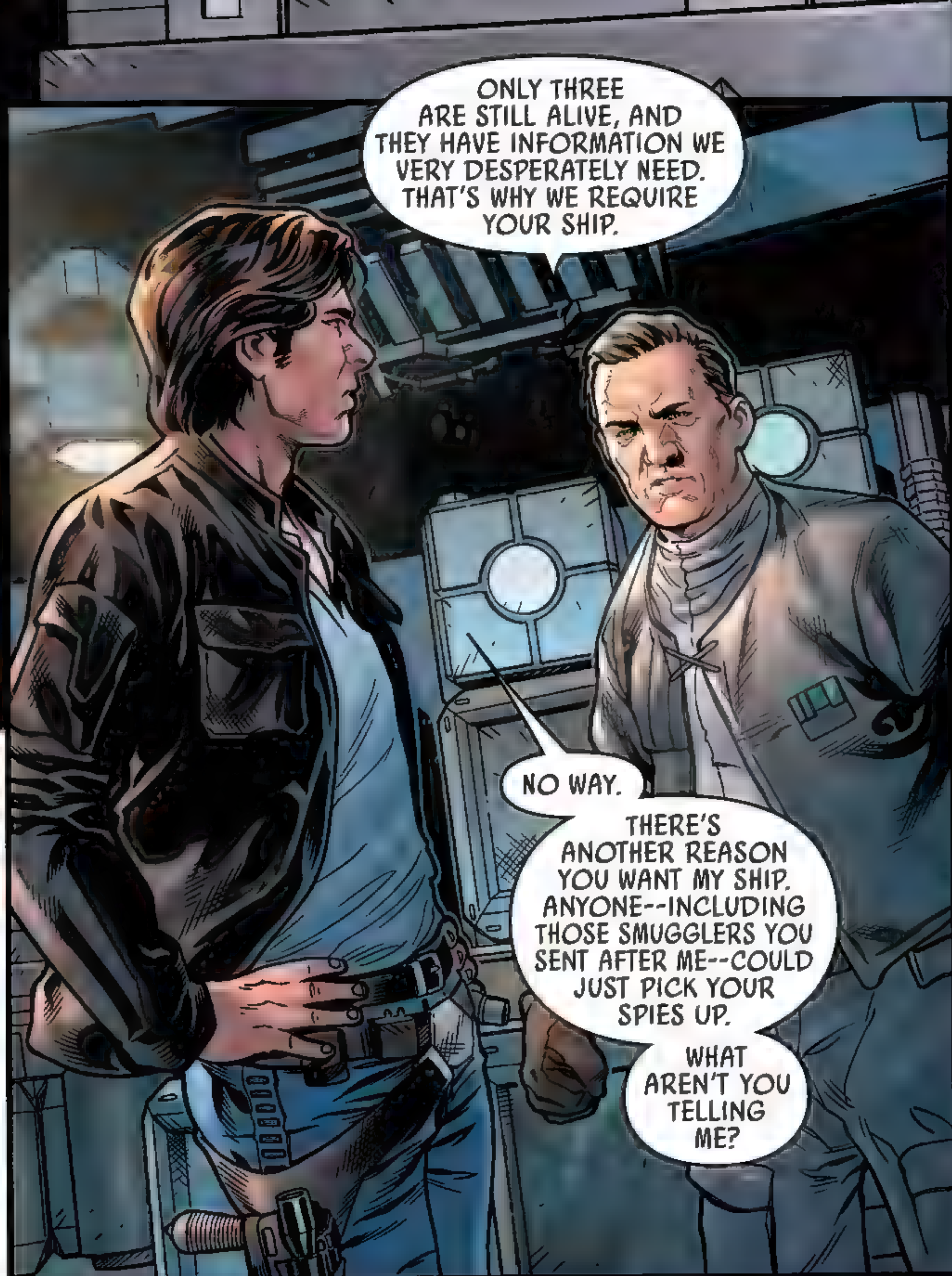


FOR YEARS, AND AT GREAT RISK, WE'VE ASSEMBLED A NETWORK OF INFORMANTS THROUGHOUT THE IMPERIAL SYSTEMS--ALL OF WHOM HAD ONLY ONE OBJECTIVE.

THE ODDS WERE NEVER GOOD. MOST OF US HAD LITTLE HOPE FOR THEM. BUT LAST MONTH WE RECEIVED A SIGNAL FROM THE COLLECTIVE THAT THE MISSION HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.



AND THEN, ONE BY ONE, THEY STARTED DYING. MURDERED.



ONLY THREE ARE STILL ALIVE, AND THEY HAVE INFORMATION WE VERY DESPERATELY NEED. THAT'S WHY WE REQUIRE YOUR SHIP.

NO WAY.

THERE'S ANOTHER REASON YOU WANT MY SHIP. ANYONE--INCLUDING THOSE SMUGGLERS YOU SENT AFTER ME--COULD JUST PICK YOUR SPIES UP.

WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?



THERE IS A MOLE INSIDE THE REBELLION. PROBABLY MORE THAN ONE.

WE CAN'T USE OUR OWN SHIPS. WE CAN'T USE ANYONE WHO'S AN OFFICIAL PART OF THE REBELLION. AND THE PERSON WE SEND WOULD NEED A GOOD REASON TO BE IN THAT SYSTEM.



LIKE FLYING IN THE DRAGON VOID RUN.

ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS, DANGEROUS RACE IN THE GALAXY.



I KNOW WHAT IT IS. ANY PILOT THAT TELLS YOU THEY NEVER THOUGHT OF WINNING THAT ONE AIN'T A PILOT AT ALL. BUT THE ENTRANCE FEE ALONE WOULD BANKRUPT A HUTT.

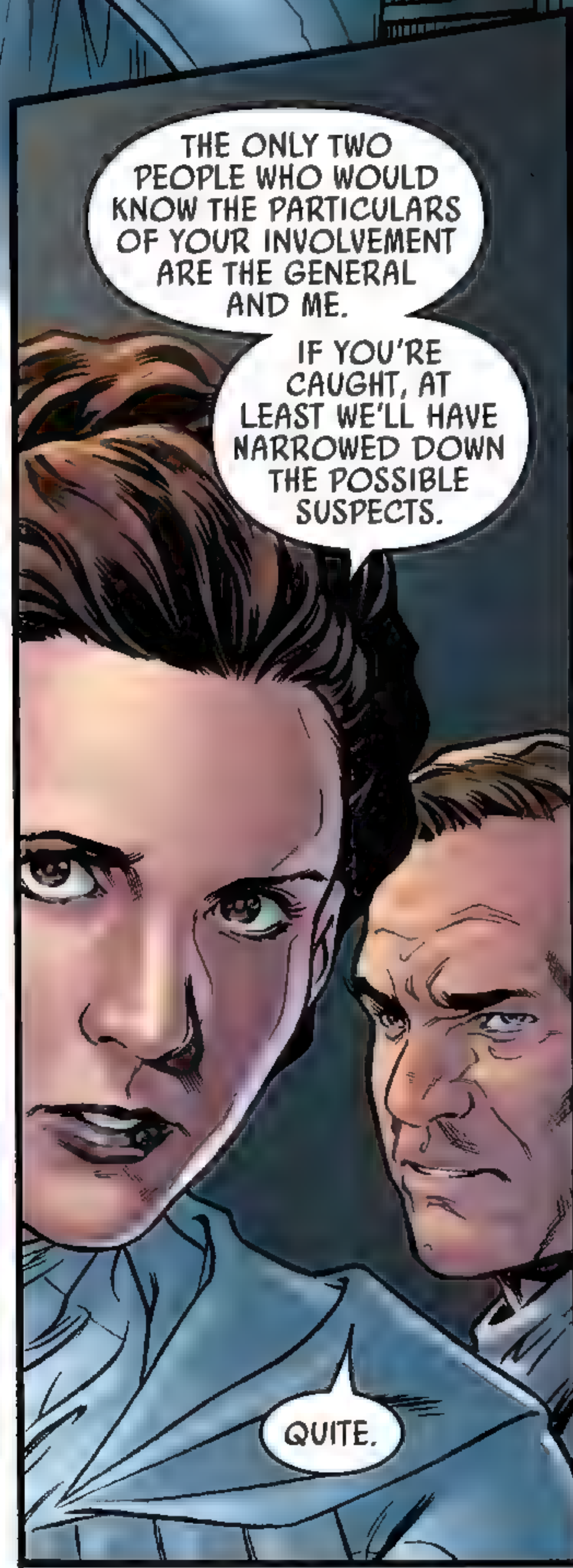
WE'VE ALREADY PAID THE FEE.

WE ONLY HAVE TO CERTIFY THE NAMES OF THE SHIP AND PILOT.



THE RACE PASSES BY THREE PLANETS. EACH OF THE THREE INFORMANTS WOULD BE TOLD TO RENDEZVOUS WITH YOU ON THESE WORLDS. YOU'D RETRIEVE EACH ASSET DURING THE RACE'S MANDATORY REFUELING PERIOD.

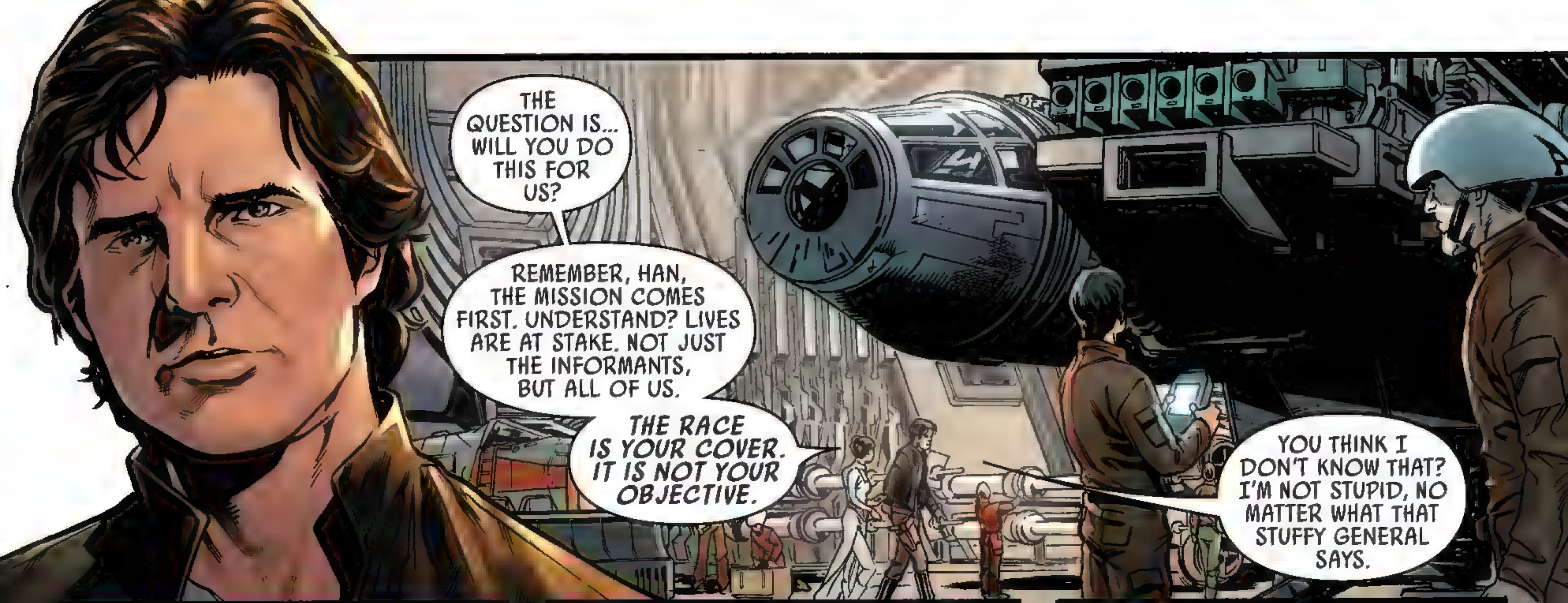
AND WHEN YOUR MOLE TIPS OFF THE IMPERIAL FLEET, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME AND CHEWIE?



THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE WHO WOULD KNOW THE PARTICULARS OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT ARE THE GENERAL AND ME.

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE NARROWED DOWN THE POSSIBLE SUSPECTS.

QUITE.



THE QUESTION IS... WILL YOU DO THIS FOR US?

REMEMBER, HAN, THE MISSION COMES FIRST. UNDERSTAND? LIVES ARE AT STAKE. NOT JUST THE INFORMANTS, BUT ALL OF US.

THE RACE IS YOUR COVER. IT IS NOT YOUR OBJECTIVE.

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT? I'M NOT STUPID, NO MATTER WHAT THAT STUFFY GENERAL SAYS.

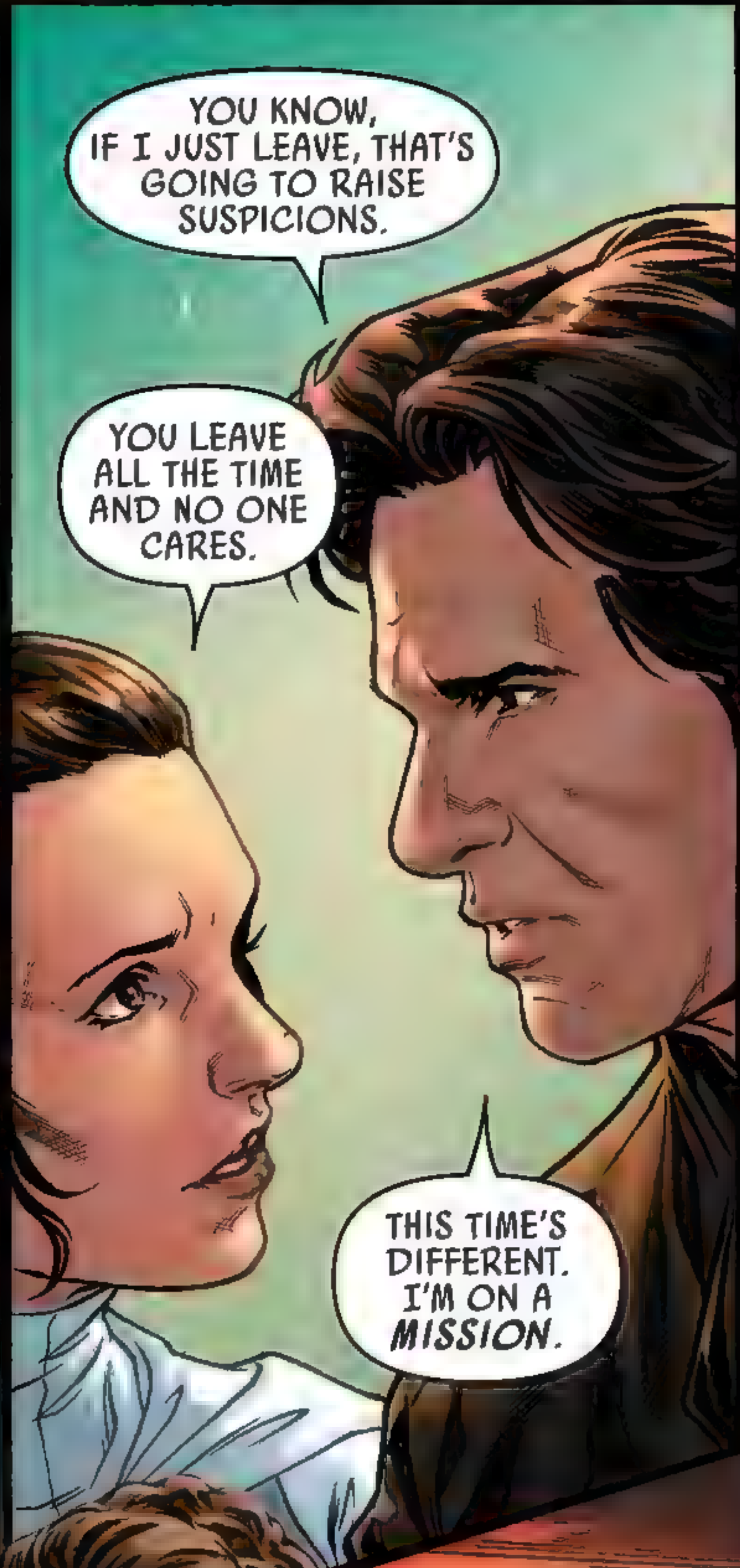


YOU'RE IMPULSIVE, HAN. THAT'S ALMOST AS BAD.

BUT YOU'RE NO IMPERIAL SYMPATHIZER.

YOU BARELY SYMPATHIZE WITH US.

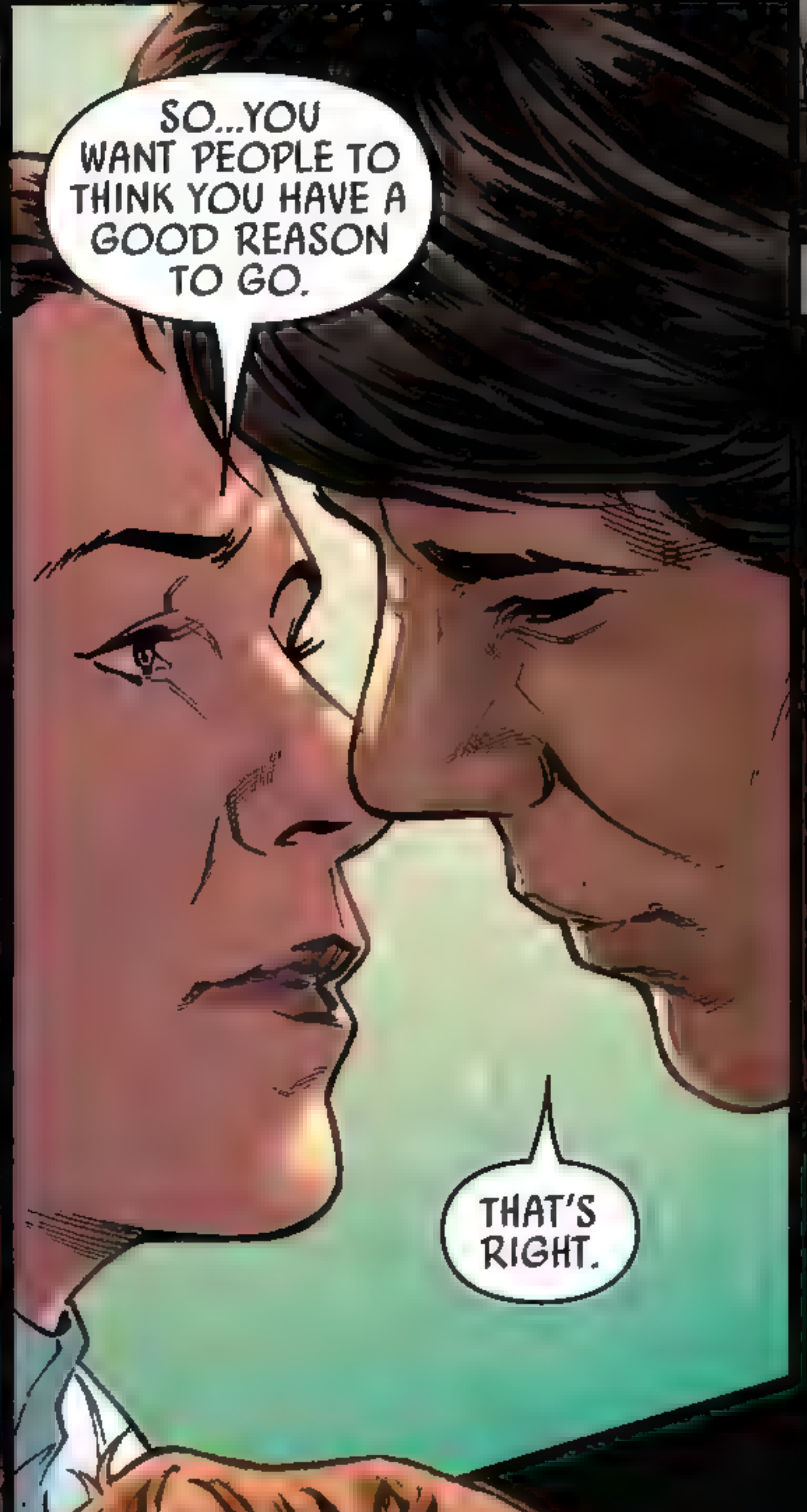
THANKS, I THINK.



YOU KNOW, IF I JUST LEAVE, THAT'S GOING TO RAISE SUSPICIONS.

YOU LEAVE ALL THE TIME AND NO ONE CARES.

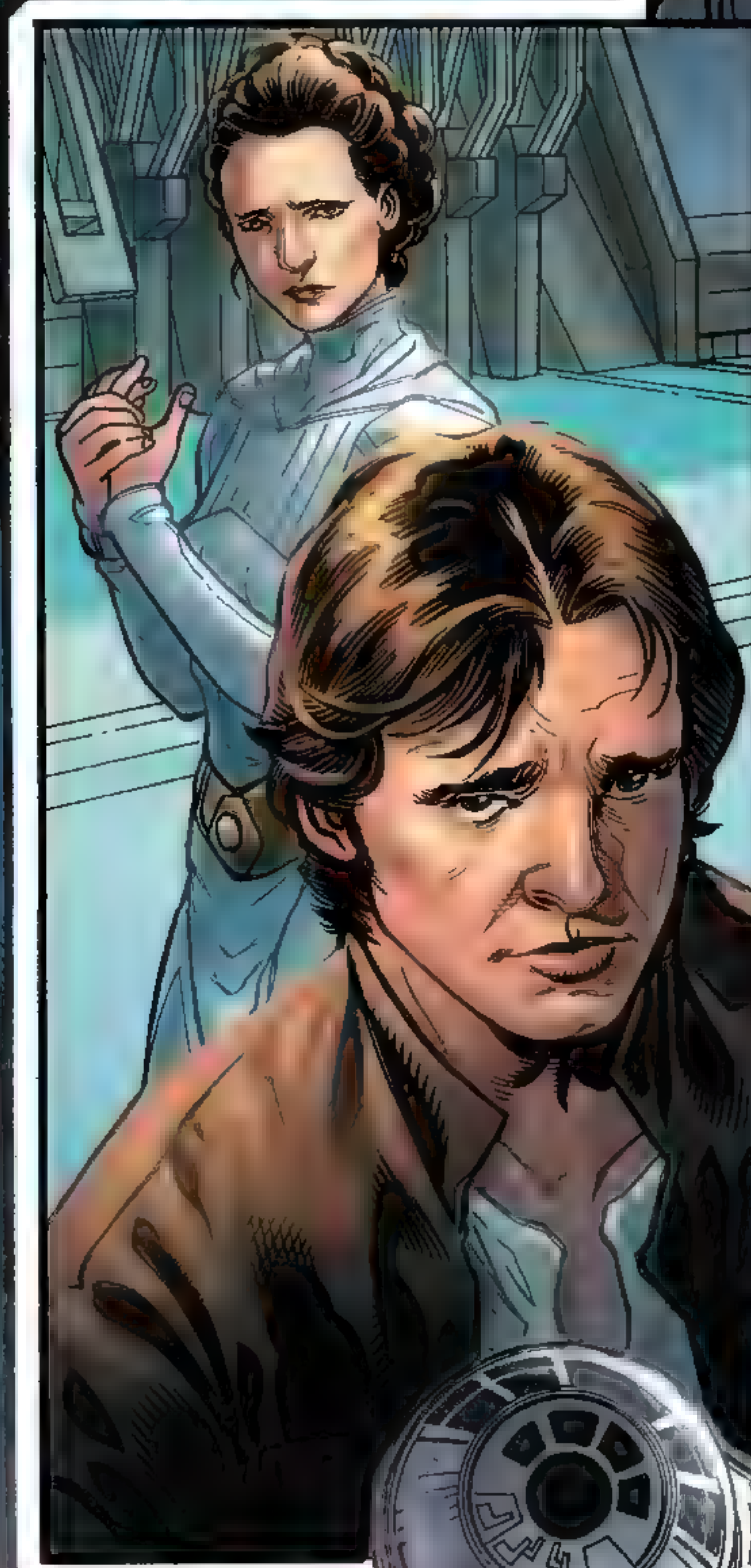
THIS TIME'S DIFFERENT. I'M ON A MISSION.



SO...YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON TO GO.

THAT'S RIGHT.







"PILOTS, WELCOME TO
THE **DRAGON VOID**, THE
OLDEST, MOST DANGEROUS
RACE IN THE GALAXY.

"DO OR DIE,
WE TELL YOU.

"DO OR DIE...
OR GO HOME
NOW."

REGISTRATION,
PLEASE.

ARRRRGGGH!

HAN SOLO,
CONFIRMED.

REGISTRATION
FEE, CONFIRMED.

CONGRATULATIONS,
YOU ARE PILOTING
THE **MILLENNIUM
FALCON** IN THE
DRAGON VOID.

PILOT SOLO, PLEASE
REMEMBER THE RULES
OF THE RACE.

LOOK
AT 'EM ALL,
CHEWIE.

THE BEST
PILOTS IN THE
GALAXY.

AT LEAST,
THAT'S WHAT
THEY TELL
THEMSELVES.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO
REFUEL AT THREE PLANETS,
THE COORDINATES OF WHICH I
HAVE SENT TO YOUR SHIP. IF YOU
DO NOT REFUEL AT THESE PLANETS,
OR IF YOU MAKE ANY OTHER
UNSCHEDULED PLANETARY STOPS
ALONG THE RACE, YOU WILL BE
DISQUALIFIED AND FINED.



HEY.
NICE PARTY,
RIGHT?



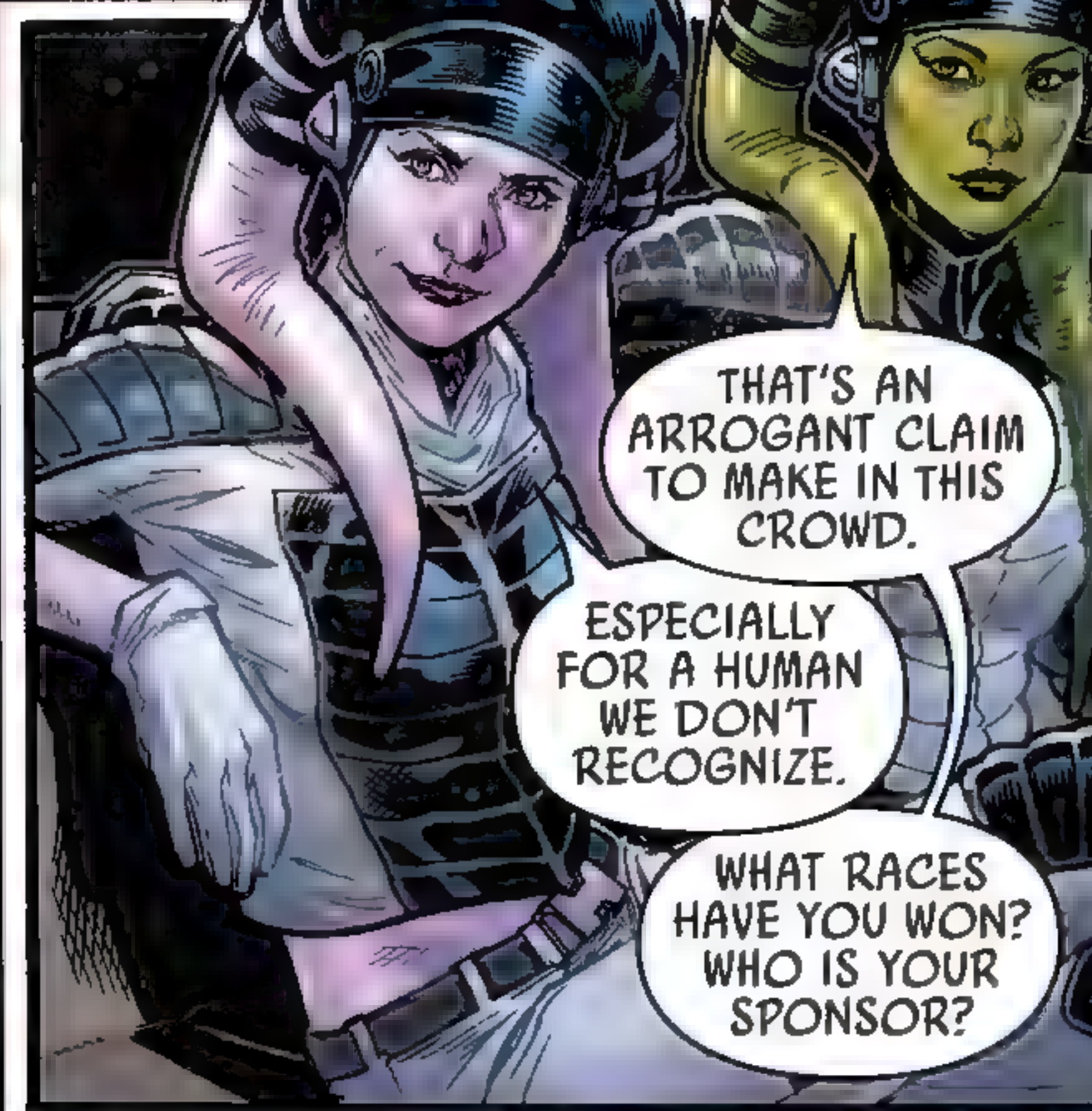
NONE OF
THESE PILOTS
LOOK LIKE THEY'VE
EVER HAD ENGINE
GREASE ON THEIR
HANDS.



WHY
WOULD I FEEL
INTIMIDATED?

I'M THE
BEST PILOT IN
HERE, AND WE'VE
GOT THE FASTEST
SHIP.

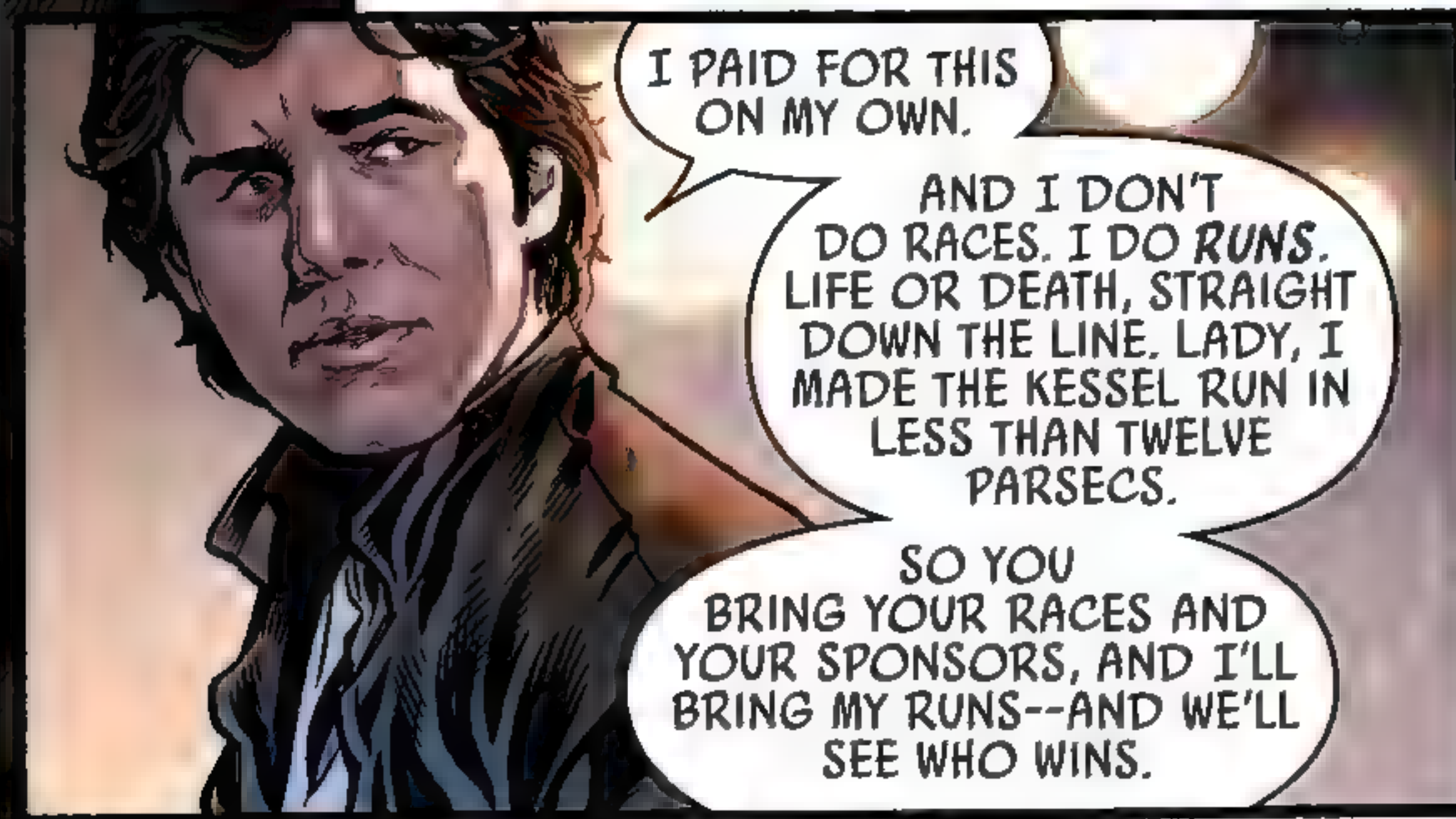
BEST
PILOT, ARE
YOU? FASTEST
SHIP?



THAT'S AN
ARROGANT CLAIM
TO MAKE IN THIS
CROWD.

ESPECIALLY
FOR A HUMAN
WE DON'T
RECOGNIZE.

WHAT RACES
HAVE YOU WON?
WHO IS YOUR
SPONSOR?



I PAID FOR THIS
ON MY OWN.

AND I DON'T
DO RACES. I DO RUNS.
LIFE OR DEATH, STRAIGHT
DOWN THE LINE. LADY, I
MADE THE KESSEL RUN IN
LESS THAN TWELVE
PARSECS.

SO YOU
BRING YOUR RACES AND
YOUR SPONSORS, AND I'LL
BRING MY RUNS--AND WE'LL
SEE WHO WINS.



OH, NO.
I
UNDERSTAND
NOW.



YOU'RE A
SMUGGLER!



THERE
MUST BE SOME
MISTAKE.

DROID!
DROID!

THIS HUMAN
DOESN'T BELONG
HERE. ESCORT
HIM OUT.

RRRWWAAARRRGH.

HOLD ON,
CHEWIE.



I AM AFRAID I
CANNOT. HE IS
A REGISTERED
RACE PILOT.

SEE? NOTHING
TO GET RILED
UP ABOUT. I'M A
REGISTERED
RACE PILOT.



RACE
AGAINST US? YOU
MUST BE A FOOL,
SMUGGLER.

WE'RE THE
BEST IN THE GALAXY.
WE TRAIN ONLY FOR
THIS RACE.

OUR VESSELS
ARE OPTIMIZED
WITH THE LATEST
TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE
TEAMS FOR EACH OF
OUR SHIPS'
SYSTEMS.



WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT? A
DERELICT SHIP?
A WOOKIEE?

PERHAPS
HE HAS
HEART.

AND THE
LOYALTY OF
HIS CREW.

AMONG
MY PEOPLE
THAT HAS OFTEN
PROVED
ENOUGH.

I HAVE
NO ONE
BUT MYSELF. AND
MY SHIP IS AS
OLD AS SOME
STARS.

DO YOU
QUESTION
MY SKILL?

NO.
NEVER.

ALL OF
YOU ARE SO
VERY YOUNG.
WHAT AN HONOR.
AND WHAT A
CURSE.

WHO IS
THAT?

YOU DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE
HER?

SHE'S
STILL
ALIVE?

THAT
IS LOO RE
ANNO.

NOT ONLY IS
SHE ALIVE, SHE'S STILL
THE GREATEST RACER
IN THE GALAXY.

AND THE
OLDEST.

SHE'S
NOT DEAD
NOW...

...BUT WE'RE
ALL TAKING
BETS THIS WILL
BE HER LAST
RACE.

"IT'LL BE THE LAST
RACE FOR ANYONE
WHO ISN'T READY."

"THE DRAGON
VOID IS THE EATER
OF FOOLS. AND
ROOKIES."

GRRRAARGH.

NO, I'M
NOT NERVOUS.
WHY WOULD I BE
NERVOUS?

WE'VE
GOT THIS.

POWER UP,
PILOTS! THE
RACE OF A LIFETIME IS
ABOUT TO BEGIN IN
THREE...TWO...

AND I
DON'T CARE
WHAT LEIA SAYS...
WE'RE GOING
ALL THE WAY.





--US.



WHAT
THE--

CHEWIE!
DIRECT POWER
TO FORWARD
DEFLECTORS!



THIS...IS...
NOT...SUPPOSED...
TO...BE...
HAPPENING...

THOSE
SHIPS BEING
ATTACKED...

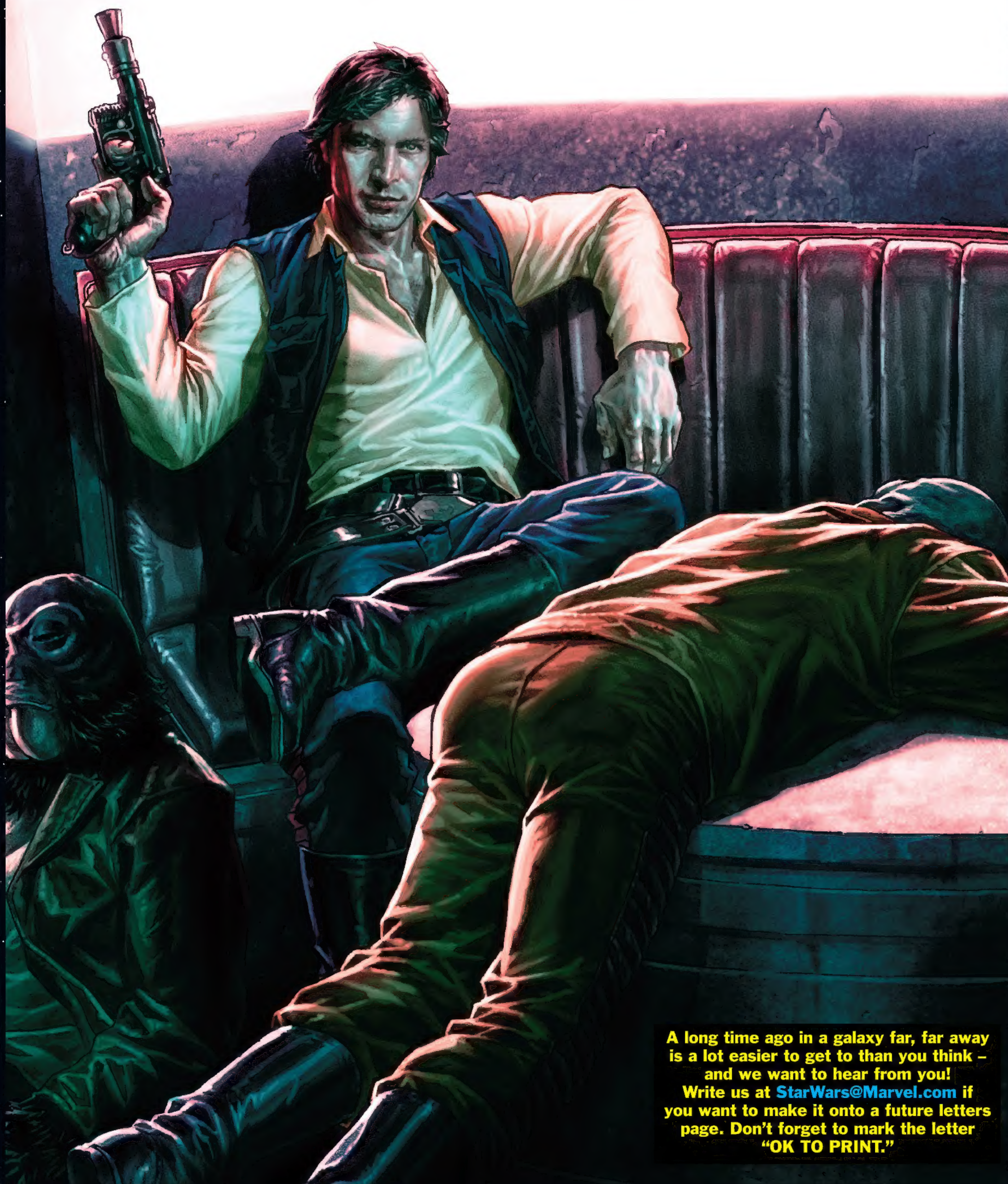


"...THEY'RE
PART OF THE
RACE!"

To be continued...

HAN SOLO

NEXT ISSUE!



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away
is a lot easier to get to than you think –
and we want to hear from you!
Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if
you want to make it onto a future letters
page. Don't forget to mark the letter
"OK TO PRINT."

